

Claims

1. A wound closure dressing of controlled stretchability that is both liquid and pathogen impermeable; said dressing comprising an adhesive layer
5 of flexible and stretchable pressure-sensitive adhesive material; a stretchable and contractible backing layer secured to one side of said adhesive layer; and a multiplicity of flexible but substantially non-stretchable reinforcing members secured to and extending
10 in spaced parallel relation across said dressing for preventing stretching of said dressing in directions parallel with said members while allowing stretching and contraction of said dressing in all other directions.

2. The wound closure dressing of claim 1 in which said reinforcing members comprise spaced parallel flexible but substantially non-stretchable filaments.

3. The wound closure dressing of claim 2 in which said filaments are arranged in spaced parallel groups.

4. The wound closure dressing of claim 3 in which said filaments extend in parallel relation along substantially the same plane.

5. The wound closure dressing of claim 3 in which said filaments extend along a side of said adhesive layer opposite from said one side.

6. The wound closure dressing of claim 3 in which said filaments extend between said backing layer and said adhesive layer.

7. The wound closure dressing of claim 1 in which said reinforcing members comprise spaced parallel strips of flexible but substantially non-stretchable material.

5 8. The wound closure dressing of claim 7 in which said strips extend in parallel relation along substantially the same plane.

10 9. The wound closure dressing of claim 7 in which said strips extend along a side of said adhesive layer opposite from said one side.

15 10. The wound closure dressing of claim 7 in which said strips extend between said backing layer and said adhesive layer.

20 11. The wound closure dressing of claim 7 in which said strips extend across said backing layer along a surface thereof opposite from said adhesive layer.

25 12. The wound closure dressing of claim 1 in which said backing layer and said adhesive layer have a transparency allowing visual inspection through said dressing of a wound site covered by said dressing.

30 13. The wound closure dressing of claim 1 in which said adhesive layer comprises a continuous phase of an elastomeric adhesive material and a discontinuous phase of hydrocolloid particles dispersed throughout the continuous phase.

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